

INDIANA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

315 WEST OHIO STREET, ROOM 104, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202 317.232.3850

Public Meeting Packet
Indiana State Library
Author's Room
July 9, 2026

Note: Any documents for consideration by the State Ethics Commission (waivers, orders, agreed settlements, etc.) are not official or final until approval by the Commission.

INDIANA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

315 WEST OHIO STREET, ROOM 104, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202 317.232.3850

July 9, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Indiana State Library, Second Floor, Author's Room
315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Commission Member	Term Began	Term Ends	Appointing Authority
Katherine Noel, Chair	January 1, 2026	December 31, 2029	Governor
Ray Biederman	January 1, 2026	December 31, 2029	Governor
Sue Anne Gilroy	March 1, 2024	December 31, 2027	Governor
Rafael Sanchez	January 1, 2024	December 31, 2027	Governor
Robert Duncan	January 6, 2025	July 31, 2026	Governor

Public Meeting

I. Adoption of the Agenda **10:00 a.m.**

II. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2026

III. Consideration of Post-Employment Waivers

- a. Jeffrey Stokes – Bureau of Motor Vehicles; Presented by Ethics Officer Matthew Kestian

IV. Consideration of Formal Advisory Opinion

- a. Stephanie Flittner – Department of Natural Resources

V. State Ethics Commission Director's Report

Join the meeting via livestream here:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/297949299508023?p=tpQ79TutjMqREASdSp>

INDIANA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

315 WEST OHIO STREET, ROOM 104, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46202 317.232.3850

Minutes of the
Indiana State Ethics Commission
June 11, 2026
At 10:00 am

Indiana State Library
Author's Room
315 West Ohio Street, Second Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Commission Members Present:

Katherine Noel, Chair
Ray Biederman
Sue Anne Gilroy
Robert Duncan

OIG Members Present:

Will Deane, State Ethics Commission Director
Adam Garrigus
Jon McDonald
Elaine Vullmahn
Rachel Gallagher
John Bunch
Sam Stearley
Teresa Henson (Teams)

I. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

10:00 am

Katherine Noel calls the meeting to order.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Gilroy made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Duncan seconded.

Approved: 4/0

III. Approval of Minutes from April 9, 2026

Commissioner Gilroy made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Duncan seconded.

Approved: 4/0

IV. Consideration of Post-Employment Waivers

- a. Indiana Department of Transportation – Chase Schneider; Presented by Ethics Officer Chris Devlin

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to approve. Commissioner Gilroy seconded.

Approved: 4/0

- b. Indiana Department of Transportation – Kyanna Wheeler; Presented by Ethics Officer Chris Devlin

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to approve. Commissioner Gilroy seconded.

Approved: 4/0

- c. Indiana Department of Transportation – Jessica Poiry; Presented by Ethics Officer Chris Devlin

Commissioner Gilroy made a motion to approve. Commissioner Biederman seconded.

Approved: 4/0

VI. State Ethics Commission Director's Report

1. There have been 28 IAOs since the last meeting.
2. Leah Bechtold is welcomed as a summer intern of the OIG.

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner Biederman made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Duncan seconded.

Approved: 4/0

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 am.



STATE OF INDIANA

Mike Braun, Governor

Kevin M. Garvey, Commissioner
Bureau of Motor Vehicles
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
888-692-6841

June 22, 2026

Office of Inspector General
315 West Ohio Street, Room 104
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Re: Ethics Waiver for Jeff Stokes

As the Appointing Authority of Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles, I am filing this waiver of the application of the Code of Ethics' post-employment restriction as it applies to Jeffrey Stokes in his post-employment, uncompensated, motorcycle safety training with Kerstings Cycle Center, Riders First, and Dreyer MotorSports.

I understand that I must file and present this waiver to the State Ethics Commission at their next available meeting. I further understand that this waiver is not final until approved by the State Ethics Commission.

A. This waiver is provided pursuant to IC 4-2-6-11(g) and specifically waives the application of *(Please indicate the specific restriction in 42 IAC 1-5-14 (IC 4-2-6-11) you are waiving):*

- ☐ IC 4-2-6-11(b)(1): 365 day required "cooling off" period before serving as a lobbyist.
- ☐ IC 4-2-6-11(b)(2): 365 day required "cooling off" period before receiving compensation from an employer for whom the state employee or special state appointee was engaged in the negotiation or administration of a contract and was in a position to make a discretionary decision affecting the outcome of such negotiation or administration.
- ☐ IC 4-2-6-11(b)(3): 365 day required "cooling off" period before receiving compensation from an employer for which the former state employee or special state appointee made a directly applicable regulatory or licensing decision.
- ☒ IC 4-2-6-11(c): Particular matter restriction prohibiting the former state employee or special state appointee from representing or assisting a person in a particular matter involving the state if the former state officer, employee, or special state appointee personally and substantially participated in the matter as a state worker. *(Please provide a brief description of the specific particular matter(s) to which this waiver applies below):*



Indiana
A State that Works

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Jeff Stokes had substantial decision-making authority related to selecting and supporting Ride Safe Indiana (RSI) providers. He oversaw the management of the provider contracts and the supporting policies and rules associated with the RSI provider group and Kerstings Cycle Center, Riders First, and Dryer Motorsports are members of the RSI provider group.

- B. IC 4-2-6-11(g)(2) requires that an agency's appointing authority, when authorizing a waiver of the application of the post-employment restrictions in IC 4-2-6-11(b)-(c), also include specific information supporting such authorization. Please provide the requested information in the following five (5) sections to fulfill this requirement.

1. Please explain whether the employee's prior job duties involved substantial decision-making authority over policies, rules, or contracts:

Jeff Stokes had substantial decision-making authority related to selecting and supporting Ride Safe Indiana (RSI) providers. He oversaw the management of the provider contracts and the supporting policies and rules associated with the RSI provider group.

2. Please describe the nature of the duties to be performed by the employee for the prospective employer:

Jeff Stokes is seeking permission to teach motorcycle safety training classes, without compensation, to support the safety of riders.

3. Please explain whether the prospective employment is likely to involve substantial contact with the employee's former agency and the extent to which any such contact is likely to involve matters where the agency has the discretion to make decisions based on the work product of the employee:

On June 30, 2026, Jeff will be retiring from employment with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. He will have no direct contact with the agency after that time. If he is able to become a motorcycle safety trainer, his direct contact will be with the RSI provider, not the agency.

4. Please explain whether the prospective employment may be beneficial to the state or the public, specifically stating how the intended employment is consistent with the public interest:

Jeff Stokes carries the necessary certifications from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) as a RiderCoach (RC) and RiderCoach Trainer (RCT) to teach motorcycle safety classes. The BMV/state currently has contracts with two other individuals in the state who hold RCT certifications. BMV has an additional contract with a man from Kentucky who is RCT certified, but he has been inactive for several years and it is unclear if he intends to resume training in Indiana. These gentlemen are paid to conduct RC training courses by the state. If Jeff were to be able to coach a Basic Rider Course (BRC), he would be partnered with one of BMV's current contractors for motorcycle safety training. Coaching a BRC is for new or novice riders, not coaching new RCs. RCs conducting BRCs work for, and may be compensated by RSI providers, and not the state. Because the pool of available trainers is so small, having Jeff as an additional key resource will strengthen our training capacity and help us reach more individuals learning to ride safely.



Indiana
A State that Works

An Equal Opportunity Employer

5. Please explain the extent of economic hardship to the employee if the request for a waiver is denied:

There is no economic hardship as Jeff would be conducting training for free.

C. Signatures

1. Appointing authority/state officer of agency

By signing below I authorize the waiver of the above-specified post-employment restrictions pursuant to IC 4-2-6-11(g)(1)(A). In addition, I acknowledge that this waiver is limited to an employee or special state appointee who obtains the waiver before engaging in the conduct that would give rise to a violation.



Kevin M. Garvey

06/23/2026

DATE

2. Ethics Officer of agency

By signing below I attest to the form of this waiver of the above-specified post-employment restrictions pursuant to IC 4-2-6-11(g)(1)(B).



Matthew R. Kestian

6/23/2026

DATE

D. Approval by State Ethics Commission

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Approved by State Ethics Commission

Katherine Noel, Chair, State Ethics Commission

Date



Indiana
A State that Works

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Mail to:
Office of Inspector General
315 West Ohio Street, Room 104
Indianapolis, IN 46202

OR

Email scanned copy to: info@ig.in.gov

*Upon receipt you will be contacted with
details regarding the presentation of this
waiver to the State Ethics Commission.*



Indiana
A State that Works

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Request for formal Advisory Opinion

6/11/2026

Form Details

First Name: Stephanie

Last Name: Flittner

Email: SFLITTNER@DNR.IN.GOV

Phone: (812) 213-5774

State Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Description of Your State Occupation: I serve as General Counsel for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. In that role, I provide legal advice to the agency, agency leadership, and agency divisions on a broad range of matters involving DNR programs, operations, litigation, administrative proceedings, contracts, employment matters, compliance obligations, public records, rulemaking, statutory interpretation, and agency legal risk. My duties include legal issues involving federal grants. These issues may include questions involving grant administration, compliance, audit issues, contracts, procurement, reporting obligations, employment issues, and other legal questions related to federally funded programs. Although I may delegate federal grant related legal questions to another DNR attorney, that attorney would still report to me within the agency's legal chain of supervision. I also supervise DNR's internal audits department. In that supervisory role, I could oversee or become involved in audit issues involving federal grants or grant compliance. In addition, I handle or supervise legal questions involving DNR employees who serve in federally funded roles or whose work is connected to federally funded programs. My own salary is not federally funded. I also serve as DNR's Ethics Officer. In that role, I assist with agency ethics issues, including conflict questions, outside employment questions, disclosure issues, and related ethics matters. Because this request involves my own candidacy and potential outside public service, I am requesting guidance on whether an alternate ethics officer, appointing authority, or other designated official should review, approve, sign, or administer any disclosures, recusals, screens, or other ethics related conditions involving me. I have filed as a candidate for the Carmel Clay Schools Board of School Trustees. The school board race is partisan, and I have filed as a Republican candidate. I am still able to withdraw my candidacy at this time. If elected, I would serve on the school board while continuing my employment as DNR General Counsel. The school board position is compensated at approximately \$2,000 per year. I would conduct all campaign activity and school board work on personal time. I would not use state materials, funds, property, personnel, facilities, equipment, email, phones, vehicles, confidential information, state time, or DNR authority for campaign activity or school board service. I would not solicit political contributions from DNR employees I directly supervise or from persons I know to have a business relationship with DNR. I would also avoid using my DNR title, position, or authority in any way that suggests agency endorsement of my candidacy or school board service.

What is your ethics question? I request a formal advisory opinion on whether the Indiana Code of Ethics permits me to continue my candidacy for, and if elected, serve on the Carmel Clay Schools Board of School Trustees while continuing to serve as General Counsel for the Indiana Department

provision of the Indiana Code of Ethics. Whether I would need to file a conflict disclosure or be screened from DNR matters involving Carmel Clay Schools, the Carmel Clay Schools Board of School Trustees, school corporation grants or contracts, DNR programs involving the school corporation, federal grant issues, internal audit issues, employees in federally funded roles, or any other matter in which DNR, Carmel Clay Schools, or I may have a financial interest. Whether I would need to recuse from school board matters involving DNR, DNR programs, DNR permits, DNR grants, DNR contracts, DNR property, DNR regulatory issues, DNR employees, or other DNR interests. Whether delegation of federal grant matters, internal audit matters, Carmel Clay Schools related matters, or school corporation related matters to another attorney or employee who still reports to me is sufficient, or whether an effective screen would require assignment outside my supervisory chain. Whether, because I am DNR's Ethics Officer, any disclosure, recusal, screen, approval, or ethics determination involving me should be reviewed, signed, or administered by an alternate ethics officer, the appointing authority, or another designated official. Whether the Code requires any restrictions beyond my stated intent not to use state materials, funds, property, personnel, facilities, equipment, email, phones, vehicles, confidential information, state time, or DNR authority for campaign activity or school board service. Whether I may continue to campaign while this request is pending, provided that I comply with the political activity rule, do not campaign on state time, do not act in my official capacity for campaign purposes, do not use state resources, and do not solicit contributions from direct reports or persons I know to have a business relationship with DNR. If the Commission determines that my continued candidacy or potential school board service would create an ethics issue that cannot practically be cured through disclosure, recusal, delegation, screening, use of an alternate ethics officer, or other conditions, whether withdrawal of my candidacy would resolve the issue under the Indiana Code of Ethics. I am not asking the Commission to interpret the federal Hatch Act, Indiana election law, or Indiana dual office holding law. I understand that Formal Advisory Opinion 2018-FAO-006 stated that the Commission does not have jurisdiction to interpret the Hatch Act or the Indiana constitutional dual office holding prohibition. However, I am disclosing the partisan nature of the race, the fact that I have already filed, the fact that I am still able to withdraw, the federal grant aspects of my DNR role, and the fact that my own salary is not federally funded because those facts may be relevant to the Commission's analysis under the Indiana Code of Ethics. I request that the Commission advise whether I may continue my candidacy and, if elected, serve on the Carmel Clay Schools Board of School Trustees while remaining employed as DNR General Counsel, and what disclosures, recusals, screens, delegations, alternate ethics officer arrangements, or other conditions would be required.



Stephanie Flittner